



CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES FOR GUAM BUILDUP PROJECT TO BEGIN SOON

The construction of an 18,000-bed facility to house temporary workers for military buildup projects is set to break ground by the end of April 2010.

Among the sites approved for construction are: Ukudu Workforce Village which covers about 75 acres of property spanning Tamuning and Dededo, a workforce housing project in Harmon Industrial Park which can house up to 1,200 workers and a 300-capacity barracks along Bello Road in Barrigada, Guam.

According to the Department of Land Management Director Chris Duenas, if the Guam Land Use Commission (GLUC) was to approve all the pending applications for temporary worker housing facilities, the existing and pending barracks would have the capacity to accommodate more than 23,000 foreign laborers. That figure is close to the combined populations of Santa Rita, Agat, Talofoto, Umatac, Inarajan and Merizo.

The GLUC and the Department of Defense have set certain standard requirements for housing facilities of companies vying for military buildup projects. So far, the Ukudu Workforce Village is the largest planned worker housing facility. The Workforce Village will provide workers three meals a day, a 24-hour medical clinic, organized recreational activities, banking services, convenience stores and other services.

The major buildup projects will not start until the Record of Decision is handed down by the Navy's top officials. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 workers from off island will be needed for numerous projects related to the military buildup over several years. Already, developers and construction companies are gearing up for those multi-million dollar contracts and subcontracts and that includes obtaining additional workers and finding or building facilities to house them.